

17. (Not Amended Herein) The printed matter according to claim 11, wherein the base material is a paper sheet.

18. (Not Amended Herein) The printed matter according to claim 11, wherein the base material is a plastic film.

19. Cancelled.

20. (Not Amended Herein) The printed matter according to claim 11, wherein a releasable adhesive layer is provided on the face of the base material reverse to the ink-receiving layer.

REMARKS

Claims 11-18 and 20 are pending in this application, with Claim 11 being the sole independent claim. Claims 19 is cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 11 is amended herein to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification at least at page 9, lines 9-11 (transparent), page 9, lines 15-16 (metal layer on base material), page 11, lines 5-8 (metal layer on face

reverse to ink-receiving layer) and page 11, lines 20-27 (base material is rough). Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Affirmation of Election of Species D

The Examiner has imposed an Election of Species Requirement among Species A, wherein the base material is a paper sheet (Claim 17); Species B, wherein the base material is a plastic film (Claim 18); Species C, wherein the metal layer is on the same side as the ink-receiving layer (Claim 19); or Species D, wherein the metal layer is on the side opposite the ink-receiving layer (Claim 19). The Examiner has designated Claims 11-16 and 20 as being generic.

Applicants affirm their previous, provisional election of Species D, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims could be searched by one Examiner without undue effort. It is also respectfully submitted that it is not mandatory to make an election of species requirement in every possible situation.

It is believed that if one Examiner acts on all of the claims of the present application at one time, overall examining time will be less than if two or more Examiners are involved. It is also earnestly believed that the examination of all of the claims at one time by one Examiner in the present

application will best ensure uniform prosecution quality. Therefore, in the interest of prosecution economy of time and quality for both the Office and Applicants, it is respectfully submitted that withdrawal of the election of species requirement in this application and examination of all pending claims on their merits are appropriate and such action is respectfully solicited.

Section 103 Rejection

Claims 11-16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Mukoyoshi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,960,638). Claims 11 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Mukoyoshi et al. in view of Laurash et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,284,689). Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections as applied to the present claims.

Mukoyoshi et al. discloses a recording sheet comprising a support base and a recording layer formed thereon. The support base may be a metal foil.

In contrast, in the present invention, an ink receiving layer is provided on one face of a transparent base material, and a metal film is provided on the other side. The interface between the metal film and the transparent base material serves as a reflective face. Thus, sufficient

glossiness can be viewed through the transparent base material from the side of the ink receiving layer reverse to the metal film. Also, having a rough pattern on at least the surface of the transparent base material causes interference of the reflected light, so a brightened image can be produced. See page 11, lines 20-27 and page 46, lines 1-24 of the specification.

Furthermore, by disposing the base material between the ink receiving layer and the metal film, the metals constituting the metal film are less likely to deteriorate.

As noted above, metal glossiness can be viewed from the front. This is due to the feature that the surface of the ink receiving layer of the claimed recording medium has maximum specular glossiness within a measurement angle range of from 20° to 60°.

In Applicants' view, Mukoyoshi et al. does not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention, and Laurash et al., which is cited for providing pressure sensitive adhesive on a medium, does not remedy the deficiencies of the primary reference.

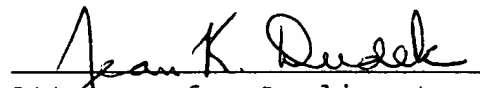
Accordingly, Applicants conclude that neither Mukoyoshi et al. nor Laurash et al., whether taken alone or in combination, anticipates or renders obvious the present invention as recited in Claim 11. Thus, Applicants request withdrawal of the Section 103 rejections.

Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 11. The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given regarding independent Claim 11, as well as for the patentable features recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Rejoinder of Claims 17 and 18 and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS

11. (Twice Amended) A printed matter printed with ink dots on a recording medium comprising [an ink-receiving layer provided on at least one face of] a transparent base material, a metal layer formed on one face of the base material, and an ink receiving layer provided on the face reverse to the metal layer, wherein the face of the transparent base material on the metal layer side is rough, and

wherein at least one of solid printed areas of yellow, magenta, and cyan colors has maximum specular glossiness within a measurement angle range of from 20° to 60°.

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